

IN THE DRAWING:

Please substitute the single replacement sheet of drawings, bearing Fig. 2, for the corresponding original sheet. The only changes made are to correct two minor informalities of usage.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are presented for examination. Claims 11-18 have been cancelled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 4 and 8-10 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1 and 8-10 are in independent form. A substitute specification is submitted herewith in both a marked and a clean version; no new matter has been added. In addition, the abstract has been amended as to matters of form, and one replacement sheet of drawing is submitted herewith, making formal changes to Fig. 2.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,031,543 (Miyashita et al.). Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that patent, and Claims 5 and 15, as being obvious from that patent in view of U.S. Patent 6,333,752 (Hasegawa et al.).

As is discussed in greater detail in the present application, the present invention is intended to enable a user who is setting or adjusting a color, to observe the resulting color as he or she controls the settings, and thus to obtain more precisely and accurately the exact color that is desired, while at the same time, making the operations required of the user simple and easy.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing method in which an image processing parameter is determined by moving a thumbnail image displayed on a map representing a color space to an arbitrary position on the map. An image process, corresponding to the arbitrary position to which the thumbnail image has been moved, is performed on the thumbnail image on the map representing the color space, and the

thumbnail image which has been subjected to the image process, is displayed at the position to which it has been moved.

By virtue of the above characteristics, it is possible using the method of Claim 1 to let the user know, directly and visibly, the appearance produced by the current setting situation, on the basis of the positional information of the thumbnail image displayed on the map representing the color space and the result of the image process performed on the thumbnail image. This significant effect cannot at all be obtained from *Miyashita*, taken either alone or in combination with *Hasegawa* (assuming for argument's sake that such combination would even be a permissible one).

Miyashita relates to a technique for easily correcting a color image. In *Miyashita*, an Lab color space window for correcting hue or saturation of image data is displayed (see Figs. 9 and 10). The hue is corrected by shifting the position of the reference circle, and the saturation is corrected by changing the size of the reference circle (col. 8, lines 15-29, and Fig. 16).

Even if *Miyashita* shows adjusting the hue by shifting the reference circle, however, nothing has been found in that patent that would teach or suggest “moving a *thumbnail* image displayed on a map representing a color space *to an arbitrary position* on the map [emphases added]”, as recited in Claim 1. Still less is anything seen in that patent that would suggest determining an image processing parameter effecting such movement, much less performing an image process, corresponding to the arbitrary position to which the thumbnail image has been moved, on the thumbnail image on the map representing the color space, and displaying the thumbnail image after the processing, at the position to which it has been moved, as is also recited in that claim.

It is believed to be plain, therefore, that Claim 1 is allowable over *Miyashita*.

Independent Claims 8-10 are apparatus, memory-medium and program claims corresponding to method Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable over *Miyashita* for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of *Hasegawa* has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of *Miyashita* as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

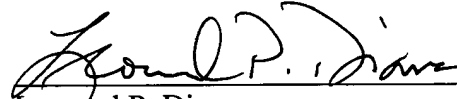
The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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FIG. 2

